

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 969

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO CZ

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRESS ON MINIC VISIT TO PRAGUE

1. PRESS COVERAGE HERE OF MINIC VISIT TO PRAGUE, WHILE EMPHASIZING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ALSO GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO DIFFERENCES IN BASIC POSITIONS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN COVERAGE OF CHNOUPEK-MINIC TOASTS WHERE STANDARD RHETORIC FROM CHNOUPEK CONTRASTED WITH MINIC EMPHASIS ON RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUAL SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND INDEPENDENT APPROACHES TO SOCIALISM. WHEREAS CHNOUPEK REFERRED TO SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA TO WORLD PEACE, MINIC EMPHASIZED THAT CONTRIBUTIONS OF "THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, WHICH INCLUDE YUGOSLAVIA", TO THE RESOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS.

2. THIS REFLECTS BASIC YUGOSLAV VIEW OF RELATIONS BROUGHT OUT IN OCT 22 TANJUG COMMENTARY BY VELIMIR BUDIMIR. HE COMMENTED THAT "COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS... IS DEVELOPING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITIONS AND POSSIBILITIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES" AND THAT "DESPITE A BRIEF PERIOD OF STAGNATION AND VACILLATIONS" THIS COOPERATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE RISE. DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH TO BOTH BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES EXIST, BUT BUDIMIR POINTED OUT THAT "THESE DIFFERENCES, UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROACHED OPENLY, HAVE SO FAR NOT INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT

OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUT TWO COUNTRIES." HE ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT ONLY THROUGH STRICT RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES
OF "SOVEREIGNTY, EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFITS AND NON-
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS," AND RESPECT FOR
SEPARATE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT IN EACH COUNTRY CAN
MUTUAL WISH FOR COOPERATIONS BE REALIZED.
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